

V

# THE Noble Birth

AND  
Gallant Atchievements  
OF

That Remarkable OUTLAW  
ROBIN HOOD.

Together with a True Account  
of the many Merry and Extravagant  
Exploits he played.

*In Twelve several STORIES:*

V I Z:

The Noble Parentage of Robin Hood.

Robin Hood's Delight.

Robin Hood and the Fifteen Foresters.

Robin Hood and the Tanner.

Robin Hood and the Butcher.

Robin Hood and the Beggar.

} Robin Hood and the Stranger.  
} Robin Hood and the Bishop.  
} Robin Hood and Queen Katherine.  
} Robin Hood and the Curial Fryar.  
} Robin Hood and the Fisher-man.  
} Robin Hood's Chase.

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L O N D O N,

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Angel in Guild-street, without Newgate.



The Noble Parentage, and the Gallant  
Achievements of *Robin Hood*,



Robin Hood was descended of the Noble Family of the Earl of Huntington; and being Out-law'd by Henry the Eighth, for many Extravagancies and Outrages he had committed, he did draw together a company of such bold and Licentious persons as himself, who lived for the most part on Robberies committed in, or near unto Sherwood Forest, in Nottingham-shire. He had these always ready at his command, so that if need did require, he, at the winding of his Horn, would have fifty, or more of them in a readiness to assist him. The whom he affected, by reason of his low stature, was called Little John, but not inferior to any of them in strength of Body and stoutness of Spirit. He would not entertain any into his service, whom he had not first fought withal himself, and made sufficient tryal of his Courage and Dexterity both to use his Weapon, which was the reason that oftentimes he came home so hurt, and beaten as he was, which was nevertheless no occasion of the Diminution of his love to the person whom he fought with, for ther afterwards he would be the more familiar with him, and better respect him for it. Many Petitions were presented for him, which the King (understanding of the many mad Pranks that he and his Apostles played) would give no ear unto; but being attended with a considerable Guard, did make a Progress himself to find him out, and to bring him to consign punishment. At the last, by the means and mediation of Queen Katherine, the Kings wrath was qualified, and his pardon sealed, and he spent his Old Age in peace, at a House of his own not far from Nottingham, being generally beloved and respected of all. We shall here give you an account of the several Combats that he fought, and the many odd and merry Pranks he played, the one whereof by the strangeness of it, will

## The Merry Exploits of Robin Hood.

and more respect unto this story: and the other by their variety, will abundantly serve to give more delight unto the Reader.

Robin Hood's Delight: Or,

A Gallant Combat fought between Robin Hood, Little John and William Scarlock, and three of the Keepers of the King's Deer in the Forrest of Sherwood, in Nottinghamshire.

**O**n a Midsummers day in the morning, R. Hood, being accompanied with Little John and Will Scarlock, did walk forth betimes, & tobed that in the way they might meet with some adventure that might be worthy of their Labour: they had not walked long by the Forrest side, but behold; of the Keepers of the Kings game appeared, with their forest-bills in their hands, and well appointed with saucers, and bucklers to defend themselves. To here (saith Robin Hood) according to our wish, we have met with our mates, and before we part from them, we will try what wits they are made of. What Robin Hood, said one of the Keepers: I, the same, replied Robin. Then have at you, said the Keepers; here are three of us, and three of you; we will angle out our selves one to one, and hold Robin, I, for my part, am resolved to have a bout with thee. Content; with all my heart, said Robin Hood; and Fortune shall determine who shall have the best, the Out-laws of the Keepers: with that they layd down their Coats, which were all of Lincoln Green, and fell to it for the space of two hours, with their brown Bills: in which hot Exercise, Robin Hood, Little John, and Scarlock had the better, and giving the Rangers leave to breathe, demanded of them how they liked them? why, good your blades P'fatch, said the Keeper that fought with Robin, we commend you; but let us make trial whether you are as good at your Sword and Bucklers, as you have been at your Quarter-Staff: why, do you doubt of it, said Robin Hood? we shall satisfy you in that immediately. With that, having laid down their Staves, and thrown off their Doubters, they fell to it pell-mell, and dealt their blows unmercifully sore, which were carefully always defended with their Bucklers. At the last, Robin Hood observing Little John and Will Scarlock begin to give ground, which they never did small their Lives before, he dissembled the danger, and calling out for a little



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a little respite to breath, he said unto the Keepers, Good boys I telly, and the best that ever I dealt withal; let me know your Names, and for the time to come I shall give that respect unto you that he longs unto your Valour. Thus said one of the Keepers, we lost time in asking after our Names; I shal will have any more to do with our hands, or with our Swords, we are for thee: I see that you are stout men, said Robin Hood, we will fight no more in this place, but come and go, with me to Nottingham. (I have Silvers and Gold enough about me) and there it shall fight in and in the Kings Head Tavern, with good Back and Claret; and after we are weary, we will lay down our Swords, and become Doctors to one another; for I love those men that will stand to it, and stoyn to turn their backs for the month of March of them all: Adieu all our hearts, sayd Robin; said the Keepers to him, for quetting by their Swords, and on their Doublets, they went to Nottingham where for three days space, they followed the Pipes of Back and Butts of Claret without intermission; and dyant themselves good friend.

Robin Hood's Progress to Nottingham: He being affonted with fifteen Forresteras; he was going to a Match at shooting with his long Bow before the King, he killed the said fifteen Forresters.

The Name of Robin Hood did now begin to grow famous up and down the Countrey; those who had occasion to go from one to another, were either afraid of him, and did so; or else those ways where his haunts were, or else they were in fear with him, and every quarter did give him Money, that with their Goods and Carrel, they might pass by unmolested. This he conceived to be a secure and a thriving way to fill his pockets; wherefore he contracted with all the Coxiers and Alehousekeepers abouts, who had to ther give him every quarter a certain sum of money, than he was liable to those Chefts and dangers both by day and night; which before did too much affit him. Robin Hood in the mean time being light and being out of any fear of the and Cops, or Constables Warrants, would repair oftentimes to the Town of Nottingham; where

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where he would constantly make himself full merry at the King's  
head, and no such was more respected than himself. It so fell out,  
that the King being at that time at a great Court house, not far from  
Nottingham the Townsmen, and some other of the adjacent Coun-  
try, did intend to delight his Majesty with the honest Exercise and  
Recreation of Archery. Whither was going many of the Rangers  
of Sherwood Forrest, and thither was going Robin Hood himself,  
but so disguised, that it was not ealie for any one to know him. The  
Forresters meeting of him, demanded of him whither he was going?  
he told them to the shooting match, to which purpose he had taken his  
Bow of Cane along with him. Thowhoote (said one of the Forresters)  
thou shalt. Alas, young Boy, thou art not able to bend a Bow of  
Cane, much less to draw in being bent, thowhoote before the King! I  
will hold you twenty Marks, said Robin Hood, that I will shoot a  
good Buck too-ked off, and kill him dead in the place. An hundred  
Mark on that (said the Forresters.) Down with your dust, said Robin;  
and having told down the money, with which he did go always pro-  
vided, he bent his Bow, and having drawn a broad Arrow up to the  
head of it, he did let it fly at a fat Buck one hundred Rod off, and  
woy: the Arrow entering in between the ribs of the Buck, made him  
give a jump from the ground and fell down dead on the place; which  
Robin spying, the wager (said he) is mine, if it were for a thousand  
pounds. It is none of thine, said the Forresters, and began to threa-  
ten him with violence, if he did not let the money alone, and got him  
suddenly gone. Robin Hood smiling with indignation, I will  
go (said he) but you shall stay till you are carryed off the place on  
which you stand, every of you. Which that he did let he  
at one of the Forresters, and then at another, and at another, and left  
his shooting his well-shell's Arrows, until that Courteen of the As-  
treen Forresters lay dead on the plain, close unto the Buck: the As-  
treen then making away with all the spoils he could, but Robin sent  
a fished Arrow after him, which entering quare through his back and  
both came out of his head. Now to your tolls, said Robin Hood,  
you have found me to be an Archer; and taking up the money with  
him, he withdrew into the Forrest to avoid all farther danger that  
might ensue, and the killing of more blood. In the mean time the  
Town-

## The Merry Exploits of *Robin Hood*!

Nottingham hearing that Robin Hood was abroad, and that many of the foresters were slain, went forth in great numbers, hoping that Robin Hood was either slain or so hurt, that they might now take him, and bring him to the king: but he having some store of his stinging Arrows amongst them, they found to their cost, by bleeding experience, that he was safe enough from being hurt or endangered: Wherefore having taken up the slain foresters that he had slain, they brought them into Nottingham Town, where so many Graves being digged in the Church-yard, they were all buried by one another, and in Death, as well as Life, kept company together.

*Robin Hood and the Tanner.* Or,

*Robin Hood met with his March.*

Relating the great and fierce Combat between Arthur Bland, a Tanner of Nottingham, and Robin Hood, the great Archer of England.

**A**fter this so sad an Execution of so many of the foresters, there was not any one so hardy as to question bold Robin, concerning any feats of Archery, and to speak the truth, he did himself forbear for the space of many years to come unto the merry Town of Nottingham, in regard that his Slaughter of so many foresters at once had made him terrible and odious to the Inhabitants thereabouts, but especially to the said foresters' Widows, who did curse him most extremely. In process of time, as he was walking one Summers morning in the forest of Sherwood, he observed a man strong of body and stern of aspect, to come up unto him, to give him an affront; whereupon he commanded him to stand and told him he believed he was some bold fellow that came to steal the Kings Deer, and he being one of the Keepers, he must discharge his trust, and secure his person. The other, who was a Tanner in the Town of Nottingham, having a long staff on his shoulder, and knowing as well how to use it as any he whatsoever, told him plainly that there must be more than two or three that must make him stand, and that he cared not a straw for his Sword, or for his Bow, or for his Quiver of forked-headed Arrows, for he believed if he were well put to it, he could as soon shift as shoot, Robin Hood being nothing dis-

couraged,

## The Merry Exploits of Robin Hood.

couraged, desired him to speak cleanly, and give him better terms, or else he would shew him into better manners. Chast me (said Bland) marry God with a vision! art thou such a goodly Man? I care not a fig for thee. Why then thou shalt care for me, said Robin Hood, and untuckling his Belt, and laying down his Bow and Arrows, he took up a staff of ground-ash, and would have Bland to measure the length of his staff with his, because he would have no foul play in the trial of his Manhood. But Bland replied, I care not for length, my staff is of good Oak, & eight foot and an half in length, although shorter than thine, thou shalt find it long enough to reach thy Carcomb. At these words Robin Hood could no longer refrain, but making two or three fine flourishes over his head, he gave him such a remembrance on the top of his Crown, that the blood trickled down his Shoulders. But Arthur Bland did soon recover himself, and bidding Robin Hood look to himself, for he would be even with him, he came up with hand and foot; Robin Hood believing that he would be, upon him with the fore-end of his staff, Bland suddenly drew back, and being very nimble at it, he gave Robin Hood so rude a vibration on the right side of his head with the other end of his staff, that he not only stunn'd him, but withal did break his head so piteously, that the blood ran down amain. Robin Hood being not often used to behold such a sight, did lay at Bland, with all the strength and art he had, and Bland was no ways wanting to defend himself, and to return blow for blow. Two hours together they were in this hot exercise, and about and about they traversed their ground, till the Wood and their sides rang with the blows which they did give to one another. At the last Robin Hood desired him to hold his hand, and let the Quarrel fall, for he found (he said) that nothing was to be gotten on either side, but dyng blows: he moreover assured him, that by the time to come, he should be free of the Forrest. God-a-murcy for nothing (said Arthur Bland) I have not bought that Freedom of thee, I may thank my good Staff for it, and the Hand that govern'd it. Whereupon Robin Hood demanded of him, what Trade he was, and where he dwelt? to whom Bland made answer, I am a Tanner, and have wrought long in Nottingham, and if thou ever comest thither, I do swear unto thee, that I will Tan thy hide for nought.

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nough. Wilt thou so, said Robin Hood? and I will do as much for thee; but if thou wilt forsake thy Tanners Trade, and live here in the Forrest with me; I dare assure thee, thou shalt have store of Gold and Silver, and want for nothing. Arthur a Bland conceiving who it was, did say unto him; If thou art Robin Hood, as by thy manhood I believe thou art, here is my hand, that if thou wilt never part with me, I will never part with thee; but where is Little John? I would fain see him, for he is of a near Kin to me by my Mothers side. Robin Hood no sooner heard him say so, but he blew his Horn, and presently afterwards, they might discover Little John coming down the Hill, who observing his Master to stand with his staff in his hand, asked him what was the matter? he told him, that he had met with the Tanner of Nottingham, who had Tanned his Hide to some Tune; Harry, and that is well done, said Little John, I will see if he can Tan my Hide also: Friend, look to your self, have at you. Thereupon Robin Hood cryed out, Hold thy hand, hold thy hand, he is thy Friend and Kinsman, his Name is Arthur a Bland. My Cousin Arthur, said Little John, how glad am I to see you? my good Cousin, and throwing down his Staff, he did run unto him, and did embrace him in the closest arms of Love. After that, Robin Hood took them both by the hand, and dancing about an old Oak-tree, with a Song in their Mouths, and Mirth in their Hearts, they expressed all the signs of undissembled affection to one another.

### Robin Hood and the Butcher.

How Robin Hood bought of the Butcher his Mare, and the meat with which he was laden, and how he circumvented the Sheriff of Nottingham, and deluded him of three hundred pound.

**N**Or long afterwards, Robin Hood walking in the Forrest as it was his daily custome, observed a Butcher riding along the way, having good store of Meat on his Hares back, which he was to sell in the Market. Good-morrow good fellow, said Robin to the Butcher: Good fellow, replied the Butcher, Heavens keep me from Robin Good-fellow, for if I meet with him, I may chance to fall short of my journey, and my Meat of the Market. I like thy company well, what hast thou to sell, said Robin Hood? Flesh Master, said the



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Butcher, with which I am going to Nottingham market. What is the price of thy flesh, said Robin Hood, and of the Hare that bears it? tell me, for if thou wilt use me well, I will buy both. Four Mark, said the Butcher, I cannot bate any thing of it. Sit down then, and tell thy Hony, said Robin Hood, I will try for once, if I can thrive by being a Butcher. The Hony being told, Robin Hood gets upon the Hare, and away he rides with his Hare to Nottingham Market, where he made such good penniworths, that he had sold all his meat by ten of the Clock in the morn: he sold more meat for one penny, than others could do for five. The Butchers in the market, that had their stands by him, said one to another, Certainly this man's meat is nought and putrified, or else he hath stolen it. From whence comes he? saith another, I never did see him here before: What will I tell you by and by, said a third Butcher: and stepping to Robin Hood, I did unto him, brother, thou art the freest Butcher that ever came to this market. we be all of one Trade, come let us dine together: Accurst be he that will deny a butcher so fair an invitation, said Robin Hood; and going with him to the Inn, the Table was suddenly covered and furnished, and the best man in the Company bring to say Grace, Robin Hood at the upper end of the Table, did put off his Bonnet: God bless us all (said he) and our Meat upon this place, a cup of Sack so good to nourish our blood, and so I end my Grace. Robin Hood was no sooner sat, but he called for a cup of Sack, and drank to them all, desiring them to be merry, for if there were five pounds to pay, he would pay it every Farthing. Thou art the bravest Blade, said the butchers, that ever came into Nottingham-market. Robin Hood still called for more Wine, and the Cups trowled up and down the Table, inso much that the Sheriff who was newly alighted, and taking his Chamber in the Inn, understanding of it, said, He was some prodigal that had sold his Land, and now would spend it all at once: which coming to Robin Hoods ear, he after Dinner, took the opportunity to speak unto him; And what, said the Sheriff, Good-fellow, thou hast made a good Market to day, hast thou any more Fowled Beasts to sell? Yes that I have, said Robin Hood to Master Sheriff, I have two or three hundred and an hundred Acres of good Land to keep them on, as ever the Crow flew over; which if you will buy of me,



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me, I will make you as good assurance of it, as ever my Father made me: The Sheriff being a Coherous man, and perswading himself, that he would make him Robin Hoods Penny-worths, commanded his Horse to be brought forth, and taking some Money with him for the purchase, he rode with Robin Hood, who leading him into the Forrest for a mile or two ourright. The Sheriff being laden with good store of Gold, and surprized with the melancholly of the place, did wish himself at Nottingham again; and why so? said Robin Hood: I tell thee plainly, said the Sheriff, I do not like thy company. No, said Robin Hood! then I will provide you better. Good keep me from Robin Hood, for this is the haunt he useth. Robin Hood smiling, observed a Herd of three hundred gallant Deer, feeding in the Forrest, close by him, and demanded of the Sheriff, how he liked those Horned Beasts? assuring him, that they were the best he could shew him; with that he blew his Horn, whereupon Little John, with fifty more of his Associates, came presently in: to whom Robin Hood imparted, that he had brought with him the Sheriff of Nottingham to dine with him. He is welcome, said Little John, I know he hath store of Gold, and will honestly pay for his dinner. I, I, said Robin Hood, never doubt it; and taking off the Sheriffs Portmanteau, he took to himself the three hundred pounds that was in it; then leading him back through the Forrest, he desired him to remember starkly to his Wife, and so went laughing away.

### Robin Hood and the Begger:

Shewing how he fought with the Begger, and changed Cloaths with him; and how going afterwards a Begging to Nottingham, he saved three Brethren who were all Condemned for Stealing the Kings Deer.

**B**UT Robin Hood took not any long delight in the Mace which he bought of the Burcher, but having now supplied himself with good store of money, which he had gotten by the Sheriff of Nottingham, he bought him a stout Gelding, and Riding one day on him towards Nottingham, it was his fortune to meet with a poor Begger. Robin Hood was of a frolick Spirit, and no acceptor of Persons, but observing the Begger to have several bags

## The Merry Exploits of Robin Hood,

of bags which were fastened to his patched Coat, he did ride up to him, and giving him the time of the day, he demanded of him what Country-man he was? a York-shire man, said the Begger, and I would desire of you to give me something: Give thee, said Robin Hood! why, I have nothing to give thee, I am a poor Ranger in the Forrest, and thou seemest to be a lusty Knave: Shall I give thee a good bastinado over thy Shoulders? Content, content, said the Begger, I durst lay my Coat and my Bags to a threaden Point, thou wilt repent it: with that Robin Hood alighted, and the Begger and he fell to it, he with his Sword and Buckler, and the Begger with his long Quarter-staff, who so well defended himself, that let Robin Hood do what he could, he could not come within the Begger, to flash him to a remembrance of his over-boldness; and nothing vexed him more, then to find that the Beggers Staff was as hard and obdurate as Iron itself, but so was not Robin Hoods head, for the Begger with all his force, did let his Staff descend with a side-blow, that Robin Hood for all his skill, could not defend it, but the blood came trickling down his face: which turning Robin Hood's courage into revenge and fury, he let fly at him with his trusty Sword, and doubled blow on blow, but perceiving that the Begger did hold him so hard to it, that one of his blows was but the fore-runner of another, and every blow to be almost the Possition of Death, he cryed out to him to hold his hand: That will I not do, said the Begger, unless thou wilt resign unto me thy Horse, and thy Sword, and thy Cloaths, with all the Money thou hast in thy Pockets. The change is uneven, said Robin Hood, but for once, I am content: So putting on the Beggers Cloaths, the Begger was the Gentleman, and Robin Hood the Begger, who entering into Nottingham Town, with his Patched Coat and several Wallers, understood that three Brethren were that day to suffer at the Gallows, being condemned for killing the Kings Deer: he made no more ado, but went directly to the Sheriffs house, where a young Gentleman seeing him to stand at the doo, demanded of him, what he would have? Robin Hood returned answer, that he came to crave neither meat nor drink, but the lives of those three Brethren who were condemned to dye. That cannot be, said the young Gentleman, for they are all this day to suffer according to Law, for

Stealing

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Keeling of the King's Deer, and they are already conveyed out of Town, to the place of Execution; I will be there with them presently, said Robin Hood, and coming to the Gallows, he found many making great Lamentation for them: Robin Hood did comfort them, and assured them they should not dye, and blowing his Horn, behold on a sudden, an hundred brave Archers came unto him, by whose help, having released the Prisoners, and killed the Hang-man, and hurt many of the Sheriffs Officers, they took those who were condemned to dye, for killing the Kings Deer, along with them, who being very thankful for the preservation of their lives, became afterwards of the Peomandy of Robin Hood.

Robin Hood Revived: Or,  
His Gallant Combat with a Valiant young Gentleman, who proved afterwards to be his Kinsman.

Every day almost did answer the expectation of Robin Hood, for he now did wish he had continued his Butchers Trade a little longer, for Provisions grew scarce, and he had not wherewith to maintain his Retinue of himself: Riding therefore forth, to see what good Fortune he could be Master of, he met with a young Gentleman that had shot a Buck: Robin Hood was not far off when it was done, and commended him for his Archery, and offered him a place in his service, to be one of his Promen, which the young Gentleman disdainful, told him, if he would not be gone, he would kick him out of that place: Robin Hood being unused to such affronts, assured him, that he had men enough to take his part, if he would but blow his Horn. Sound it and thou dar'st. said the Gentleman, I can draw out a good Sword, that shall cut thy Throat and thy Horn too: these rough words made Robin Hood so impatient, that he did bend his Bow, which the Gentleman observing, said unto him: I am as ready for that as you, but then one, if not both of us shall be surely slain, it were far better to try it out with our Swords and Bucklers: Content, said Robin Hood, we can no longer find a more fitting place, then under the Shadow of this Oak: They drew out their Swords, and to it they went; Robin Hood gave the Young Gentleman

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man cut on the right Elbow, and a little pick on his left Shoulder; which the Gentleman returned with Advantage, insomuch that both of them taking respite to breathe a little, Robin Hood demanded of him, if he had never seen nor heard of him before? I know not who you are, said the Gentleman, but my Name is Gamwel, I was born in Maxfield, and for killing of my Fathers Steward, I am forced hither to seek out my Uncle, known to most men by the name of Robin Hood. Why, I am the man, said Robin Hood, and throwing down his sword and Buckler, he made haste to embrace him whom before he had so rashly wounded. Great was the love, and many the reciprocal endearments that were betwixt them, when in the Instant there stepped in Little John, to whom Robin Hood having communicated what had passed, he gave his Kinsman a place next to Little John; Little John being always next unto himself. Not long afterwards he travelled into the North, where a bonny Scot offering him his service, he refused to entertain him; alledging that he was never true either to Father or Kinsman, much less would he prove true to him. At that time the Battel grew hot betwixt the Scots and the English and Robin Hood turning to the English; Fight on, said he, my Merry men all, our Cause is good, we shall not be beaten, and though I am compassed about, with my sword, I will cut my way through the midst of my Enemies.

### Robin Hood and the Bishop.

Shewing how he changed Cloaths with an old Woman, to scape from the Bishop, and afterwards, how he Robbed the Bishop of all his Gold, and made him sing Mass, &c.

**R**obin Hood being returned with Renown to Nottinghamshire, did walk forth one morning on foot, to see how Affairs stood in the World; he had not gone far, but he beheld a Bishop riding towards London, and attended with one hundred followers. He perceived that the Bishop had notice of him, and being alone, and not knowing how to avoid him, he did steal into an old Womans House, and making his complaint unto her, the old Woman asked him to whom he was? to whom he revealed, that he was the famous Out-law, commonly called by the name of Robin Hood: if thy name be so, said the  
Did

## The Merry Exploits of *Robin Hood*,

Old Woman, I will do the best I can to provide for thee, for I do well remember, it is not long since I received some courtesies from thee: the best way that I can advise thee to conceal thy self, is to put on my cloaths, and I will put on thine; with all my heart, said Robin Hood: so putting on her Gray Coat, he gave her his green one, with his Doublet and Breeches, and his Bow, and those few Arrows he had.

This was no sooner done, but the Bishops men with their Swords drawn, entered into the House, did take the Old woman, believing she had been Robin Hood, and did set her on a Milk-white Steed, and followed himself on a Dapple Gray, being over-joyed with himself at the great purchase he had made. In the mean time, Robin Hood being arrayed in the Old Womans Cloaths, with a Rock and Spindle in his hand did address himself straightway unto his company, and Little John beholding him coming over the green, cryed out; O who is he that yonder is coming towards us, and looketh so like a Witch, I will shoot her dead, and being dead, I will nail her to the Earth with one of my broad Arrows: O hold thy hand, said Robin Hood, I am thy Master, and coming nearer he told them what had befallen at the old Womans House: and to confirm what he said, they beheld the Bishop with a gallant train riding up that way. The Bishop espying an hundred brave Bow-men standing under a Tree in the way where he was to pass, demanded of his Prisoner who they were? Harry, replied the Old woman, I think it is Robin Hood with his company: why, who art thou then, said the Bishop? why, I am the Old Woman, said his Prisoner, thou proud blind Bishop, and if thou wilt not believe me, lift up my Leg and see. Then woe is me, said the Bishop. He had scarce bemoaned himself, but Robin Hood called to him, and bid him stay, and taking hold of his Horse, he tyed the Bishop fast to the Tree, and seizing on his sumpter-horse, he took out of his Portmantle five hundred pounds: which being done, Robin Hood smiling on Little John, and all his company laughing at one another, Robin Hood bid Little John give him his Horse, and let him go: by no means, said the company, for he shall Ang us a Mass before we let him loose: which being done, to the Bishops great grief and shame, they set him on his horse again, with his face towards the tail, and bidding him to pray for Robin Hood, they suffered him to go forward on his Journey.

Renowned



## The Merry Exploits of *Robin Hood*.

Renowned Robin Hood : Or,  
His Famous Archery before Queen Katherine, for which at that  
time, his Pardon and his Fellows were obtained by the Queen.

**R**obin Hood having on all hands supp'ed himself with good  
store of Gold, he sent therefore a considerable Present to Queen  
Katherine, with a Petition to mediate unto His Majesty for a pardon  
for himself and his Associates. The Queen accepted of both, and sent  
one of her Pages, Richard Pattrington by name, to abbaile him to  
come to Court, and she should not fail to do the best she could to ac-  
complish his request; great was the haste that Pattrington made, being  
well mounted, he dispatched within the compass of two days and less,  
so long a journey. Being come to Nottingham, he found that friend-  
ship, that on the next morning he was brought to Robin Hood's  
place; where acquainting him with his message from the Queen, he  
assured her by him, that he would not fail to wait upon her Majesty;  
and withal, sent her a small Present of his great Duty and Obser-  
vance. Immediately he cleared the chiefest of his men in Lincoln-  
Green, with black Hats and white Feathers, all alike, and himself in  
Scarlet; and thus attended, he came to London to the Queen, who  
said unto him, welcome Locksly, the King is now gone into Fins-  
bury-field, to be present at a great Game of Shooting with the Long-  
Bow, and you come here seasonably unto it; do you go before, I will  
presently be there my self: when Robin Hood was come into Fins-  
bury-fields, the King spake unto Tophus his Bow-bearer, and bad  
him to measure out the Line, to know how long the Mark should be:  
and the Queen not long afterwards, being sat next unto him, the  
King asked of her, for what wager they should shoot? the Queen made  
answer, the Wager is three hundred Tun of Rhenish Wine, and  
three hundred Tun of Beer, and three hundred of the finest Bucks  
that run on Dallam Plains. Betwixt us, said the King, it is a  
Princely Wager indeed; well, mark out the ground, this immediatly  
was done, and it was in length full sixteen score: Clifton a Fa-  
mous Archer about the Tower, boasted, that he would hit the Clout  
every time. And now the King's Officers had shot three Cotes and  
were



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were thre for none; but the Queen noth'ng discouraged, desired to know if any would be on her side? and Sir Richard Lee, who was descended of the Noble Family of the Gowers, standing close under her, she encouraged him to lay one Wager; but he being unwilling to make so desperate a venture,; she spoke to the Bishop of Hereford, who told her bluntly, that he would not bet one Penny on her side; for said he, those that shoot on the Kings side, are excellent and experienced Archers: and those that you have made choice of, we know not what they are, nor from whence they come; I durst wager, said the Bishop all that I have about me, against them. What is that, said Robin Hood? Afterscore Nobles, said the Bishop, and that is almost one hundred pounds: 'tis right, said Robin Hood, I will lay with you, and taking his bag of money from his side, he threw it down upon the Green: William Scarlock being present, said, I will venture my Life, that I know before-hand who shall win the Wager.

Now the Archers did begin to shoot again, and now those whom the Queen made choice of were equal to those of the Kings side; they were both thre and thre: Whereupon the King spake aloud to the Queen, and said, The next thre must pay for all. Robin Hood in the first place shot, and with such dexterity of Art, that his Arrow entered into the Clout, and almost touched the black: he on the Kings side, that did second him, did shoot well, and came very near unto the Clout; then shot little John, and hit the black, at which the Ladies laughed aloud being now almost sure, that the Game would go on their side, which Midge the Millers Son confirmed; for I know not at that time, whether I must commend his Art or his Fortune; but so it was, that he clef the very Pin in the middle of the black, and that with such a twang of his Bow, that it seemed that that did proclaim the Victory before the Arrow came unto the Mark.

The Queen having thus won the wager, she fell down on her knees before the King, and besought his Majesty, that he would not be angry with any there present, who were on her side; this the King (the day being designed to mirth) did condescend unto, although he did not well understand what she did mean by that Petition. This being granted, the Queen said aloud, then welcome Robin Hood, and welcome is the John, welcome Midge the Millers Son, and welcome

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every one of Robin Hood's company, that is now in the Field. Is this Robin Hood, said the King? I thought he had been slain at the Palace-Gate in the North. The Bishop of Hereford turning to the King, said unto him; May it please your Majesty, this bold Out-Law, Robin Hood, on Saturday was three Weeks took from me five hundred pounds in Gold, and bound me fast to a tree, and afterwards made me sing a Mass, and to those of his most unruly Company that were with him. What if I did, said Robin Hood? I was full glad of it, for I had not heard Mass before in many a year; and for Recompence of it, behold Sir Bishop, here is half your Gold. No, no, said Little John, that must not be; for Master, before we go, we are to give Gifts to the King and Queens Officers, and the Bishops Gold will serve for all.

The famous Battle between Robin Hood and the Curtal Fryer, and how the Fryer let Robin Hood fall into the Water, &c.

**R**obin Hood being now grown most famous, for his skill in Archery, and being high in favour of Queen Katherine, did return with much honour into Nottinghamshire, where being come, he instituted a day of Mirth for himself and all his Companions; and Challenges were laid amongst them, who should exceed at this Exercise, and who at that, some did contend who should jump farthest, some who should throw the Bar, some who should be swiftest in a foot Race, the Miles in length; others there were, with which Little John was most delighted, who did strive which of them should draw the strongest Bow, and be the best Marks-Man. Let me see, said Little John, which of you can kill a Buck, and who can kill a Doe, and who is he can kill a Hart: being distant from it by the space of five hundred foot. With that Robin Hood going before them, they went directly to the Forest, where they found good store of Game feeding before them; William Scarlet that drew the strongest Bow of them all, did kill a Buck, and Little John made choice of a barren fat Doe, and the well-directed Arrow did enter into the very Heart of it; and Midge the Millers Son, did kill a Hart above five hundred foot distant from him. The Hart falling, Robin Hood struck him gently on his shoulder, and said unto him, Gods blessing on thy Heart, I will ride five hundred Miles to find a Hatch for thee. William Scarlet hearing him

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him speak those words, smiled, and said unto him, Master what needs that? here is a Curtail Fryer, not far off, that for an hundred pounds will shoot at what distance your self will propound, either with Midge or with your self. An experienced Man he is, and will hit a Dove with great strength: he will shoot with your self, and with all the Men you have, one after another. Darest thou so, Scarlet! replied Robin Hood,; by the Grace of God, I will neither eat nor drink till I see this Fryer thou dost speak of. And having prepared himself for his Journey, he took Little John, and fifty of his Archers with him, whom he bestowed in a convenient place, as he himself thought fitting. This being done, he run down into the Dale, where he found the Curtail Fryer walking by the Water-side. He no sooner espied him, but presently he took unto him his broad sword and Buckler, and put on his Head-steel Bonnet. The Fryer not knowing who he was, or for what intent he came, did presently arm himself to encounter with him. Robin Hood coming near unto him, alighted from his Horse, which he tyed to a Thorn that grew hard by, and looking wisely on the Fryer, said unto him; Carry me over the Water thou Curtail Fryer, or else thy life lies at the stake. The Fryer made no more ado, but took up Robin Hood, and carryed him on his back (the Story saith) deep water he did stride, he spake not so much as one word to him, but having carryed him over, he gently laid him down on the side of the bank: which being done, the Fryer said to Robin Hood, It is now my turn: Therefore carry me over the Water, thou bold fellow, or be sure I shall make thee to repent it. Robin Hood to requite the courtesy, took the Fryer on his back, and not speaking the least word to him, carryed him over the Water, and laid him gently down on the side of the bank: and turning to him, he spake thus unto him, as at the first; and bad him carry him over the Water once more, or he should answer it with the loss of his life: The Fryer in a smiling murmur took him up, and spake not a word, till he came in the midst of the Stream: where being up to the middle and higher; he did shake him from off his Shoulders, and said unto him. Now chuse thee bold fellow, whether thou wilt sink or swim. Robin Hood being soundly washed, got up on his feet, and prostrating himself on the Water, did swim to a bush

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of broom on the other side of the bank : the Fryer swimm'd to a Willow-Tree, which was not far from it ; Robin Hood taking his Bow in his hand, and one of his best Arrows, did shoot at the Fryer ; which the Fryer receiv'd in his Buckler of Steel, and said unto him, shoot on, shoot on thou bold fellow, if thou shootest at me a whole Summers day, I will stand thy mark still. That I will try, said Robin Hood, and shot arrow after arrow at him, until he had not one Arrow left in his Quiver. He then laid down his Bow and drew out his Sword, which but two days before had been the Death of three men. Now hand to hand they met with Sword and Buckler : the Steel Buckler defends whatsoever blow is given ; sometimes they make at the head, sometimes at the foot, sometimes at the side, sometimes they strike directly down, sometimes they falsifie their blows, and come in foot and arm with a thrust at the Body : and being ashamed that so long they exercised their unprofitable Malour, and cannot hurt one another, they multiply their blows, they back, they lein, they gasp, they foam. At last Robin Hood desired the Fryer to hold his hand, and to give him leave to blow his Horn : thou wantedst breath to sound it, said the Fryer, take thee a little Respite, for we have been five hours at it by Fountain Abby Clock. Robin Hood took his Horn from his side, and having sounded it three times, behold there were fifty lusty men with their bended Bows, came to his assistance. The Fryer wondering at it : whose Men, said he be these ? they are mine, said Robin Hood, what is that to thee, false loon, said the Fryer, and making a little pause, he desired Robin Hood to return him the same courtesy which he gave him. What is that, said Robin Hood ? Thou soundest thy Horn, said the Fryer, three times, let me now but whistle three times : I, with all heart, said Robin Hood ? I were to blame, if I would deny that courtesy. With that the Fryer set out to his Door, and whistled three times so softly, that the black Cuckoos again with it ; and behold three and fifty fast Bar-Dogs with their tails rising on their backs, bellowing their rag : were almost on the backs of Robin Hood and his Companions. Here is for thee yone of the Men a Dog, said the Fryer, and two for thee : That is foul play, said Robin Hood. He had scarce spoken those words, but two Dogs came upon him at once, one before, another be-  
hind.

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hind him, who, although they could not touch his flesh (his Sword had made so swift a dispatch of them) yet they tore his Coat in two pieces. By this time his Men had so laid about them, that the Dogs began to fly back, and their fury so languish into barking. Little John did so bestir himself, that the Curial Fryer admiring at his courage and his nimbleness, did ask him who he was? He made him answer, I will tell the truth, and I will not lye, I am he who is called Little John, and do belong to Robin Hood, who hath fought with thee this day five hours together: and if thou wilt not submit unto him, this Arrow shall make thee. The Fryer perceiving how much he was overpowered, and that it was impossible for him to deal with so many at once, did come to composition with Robin Hood: The Articles of Agreement it were these; That the Fryer should abandon *Fountain-Dale* and *Fountain-Abby*, and live with Robin Hood, at his place not far from *Nottingham*, where for saying Mass he should receive a Noble every Sunday throughout the Year, and for saying of Mass on every Holy-day, a new change of Garment. The Fryer contented with these conditions, did seal the Agreement. And thus by the courage of Robin Hood and his Yeomen, he was enforced at the last to submit, having for seven long years kept *Fountain-Dale*: nor all the power thereof being able to bring him on his knees.

The Noble Fisherman, : O R ;

Robin Hood's Preferment.

Shewing how he did win a Prize at Sea, and how he gave one half of it to his Dame, and the other to Charitable uses.

THE Countries and the Cities being full of the Exploits of Robin Hood and his Companions, he resolved with himself to make some Adventure at Sea: and to see if he could be as famous at Sea as he was at Land. Having therefore called all his Yeomen together, he did Communicate unto them what was his resolution, but none of them would consent unto it, nor any of them would so much



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as go along with him in such an expedition: Little John, in whom he much trusted, and who was partaker with him in all his Counsels, and in all his dangers, was absolutely against it, and told him it was a madness in him to harbour any thought of such an adventure: Wherefore Robin Hood did go alone by himself to Scarborough, where being clad in a Seamans Habit, he came to a womans house by the water-side and desired entertainment. The good Woman seeing him a tall likely fellow, did ask him what his name was? he made answer, Simon over the Lee. It is a good Name, said she, and I hope thou wilt make a good Servant. If thou wilt be my Man, I will give thee any Wages that in reason thou wilt demand? I have a Ship of my own, and as good as any that Sails upon the Sea: neither thou nor it shall want for any accomodation. Rob'n Hood being content to serve, took Covenant-Money of her, and on the next morning the Wind serving fair, the Ship put forth to Sea, where Robin Hood had not been long, but he fell very sick, the Sea and he could not agree, which made him in many loud Esculations, to vomit forth his Choller against it. Besides, he was so extremely unseaworthy, that the Master of the Ship repented a thousand times that he ever took him along with him; and every one would call him the tall unweildy Lubber. When others as they were a fishing, would cast into the Sea their baited Hooks, he would throw in nothing but his bare Line, without any Hook or Bait at all: which (amongst other things) made him so ridiculous, that a thousand times he wished himself again, either in Sherwood Forrest, or Plumpton Park. At the last the Master of the Ship espyed a Spanish Man of War to make up to him, wherefore he made away from her with all the speed he could, but being impossible to out Sail her, they yielded themselves lost, and all the Goods in their Ship. Robin Hood (who called himself Simon over the Lee) seeing all men in dispaire, took courage to himself, and had his Master but give him his Bow and his Arrows, and he would deal well enough with them all. Thou deal with them, said the Master? I think we all fare the worse in the Ship for such a Lubber as thou art. Robin grew angry at these words, nevertheless taking his Bow and Arrows in his hand, he went up to the Deck, and drawing an Ar-  
row



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row up to the very head, killed one Spaniard, and by and by another, and another. The Master of the Ship seeing the Spaniards to drop so fast, encouraged his men, and boarded the Ship, where Robin Hood, alias Simon, behaved himself so manfully, that by his particular Valour they possessed themselves of the Ship, in which they found twelve thousand pounds; half of which Money Robin Hood allotted to his Dame and her Children, and the other half to his Companions in the Ship. So, said the Master it must not be so Simon, for you have won it with your own Hands, and you shall be Master of it: why then, said Robin Hood, It shall be as I have said. Half of it shall go to my Dame and her Children, and (since you refuse my Money) the other half shall be for the building of an Almshouse, for the maintenance of the poor.

*Robin Hood's Chase; Or,*

The Merry Progress betwixt *Robin Hood* and  
*King Henry.*

**R**obin Hood returning to Sherwood Forest, did commit in Yorkshire, a very strange exploit; I cannot well tell whether he was over-seen with Wile or Rage; but certainly it was one of the worst things that ever he did. It was brought to the Kings Ear, who protested that such a fact should not escape unpunished: and because the Sheriffs had heretofore complained that they could not take him, he was resolved to ride in pursuit of him himself. Being therefore come with a Royal Retinue unto Nottingham, all the Country was laid for him; which Robin Hood understanding, he, by the advice of Little John, did privately convey himself from Sherwood Forest, into Yorkshire: there were none with him but Little John, his Cousin Gamwel, William Scarlock, and two or three more. The King being informed that he was escaped into Yorkshire, did follow him with all the speed that could be, and Hue and Cry were every where issued out to apprehend him; which Robin Hood knowing, he fled out of Yorkshire to Newcastle, and from thence to Berwick: He had not continued there long, but tidings were brought; that the King was gone in  
pur-

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In pursuit of him, he was therefore constrained to go to Carlile, where little John being known, his stay was very short, and away he posted unto Lancaster, and from thence to Chester; where being in great danger to be betrayed, he conceived with himself, that the only way for his safety was to ride to London: where having procured admittance to the Queen, he told her that he understood that the King was in several places to speak with him, which caused him to come thither, to know what he would have with him. The Queen told him she would do the best she could for him; and that the King going away, told her, that he was taking a Journey on purpose to seek him out. Having thus dispatched his business at Court, the King within few days after came to it; where finding by the Queen, that Robin Hood, understanding his Majesty would speak with him, and had been there to speak with him. He is a cunning Knave, said the King. The Queen falling down on her knees, besought him, that (for his welcome to Court) he would for that once give her the life of that poor Outlaw: which being condescended to, Robin Hood dismissed all his idle Companions, and betaking himself to a civil course of Life, he did keep a gallant House, and had all over the Country the love of the Rich, and the Prayers of the Poor.



The End.